

hope all my colleagues will stand up for shrimpers by cosponsoring the Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP POLITICAL SPEECH PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for H.R. 2357, The Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act, which was defeated in the House last week. It is my belief that political speech is a form of speech that is protected by the first amendment. Churches must be given the same rights and protections as individuals.

I was in my home district participating in the Change of Command for the U.S. Joint Forces Command when the House voted on this legislation. The Joint Forces Command is responsible for joint service training of all U.S. military forces as well as helping transform the services for challenges they face in the 21st century. Navy Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr. relieved retiring Army General William F. Kernan yesterday and takes over the command. Kernan retires after a 35 year Army career and two years as commander of Joint Forces Command and as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, responsible for NATO operations in the North Atlantic. Giambastiani spent the past 18 months as Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's military adviser. I wish General Kernan the best in retirement and I look forward to working with Admiral Giambastiani.

Had I been able to vote for H.R. 2357, I would have cast my vote in favor of this legislation.

I was also away from Washington on Thursday, October 3, 2002, accompanying the Secretary of the Navy to the Naval Institute Warfare Exposition in Norfolk. On this day the House voted on H.J. Res. 112, Making Continuing Appropriations for FY 2003. I had hoped to be here to vote for this important resolution to keep the government funded and operational, and had I been here I would have voted in favor of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN GILMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the action that we take here this week, honoring one of the House's greatest Members, BENJAMIN GILMAN, upon his retirement after 15 terms in Congress.

BEN has been a friend and supporter of many of us on the other side of the aisle. His compassion for serving others is legendary. Whether it was fighting for the creation of the Select Committee on hunger or freeing political prisoners in Cuba, BEN was a stalwart in protecting the rights of others. He brought that same concern for others to his role as the

Ranking Member of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee from 1989 to 1993 which had oversight over civil service and postal employees. BEN has continued to be a voice of reason on the successor to this committee, the House Government Reform Committee. Having traveled with him on several anti-drug codels, I know how committed he has been not only in fighting drug trafficking but also in working for the resources necessary to assist those affected by drug abuse.

For his entire congressional career, BEN was known as someone from "upstate New York". Within the New York delegation, that simply means that BEN is not from New York city. While he may not hail from "the Big Apple", he is one of "New York's finest" and it has been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve with him and to call him my friend. BEN, please know that you will be sorely missed even by those of us who are not from your side of the aisle or from upstate New York. I can only wish you well and to thank for your years of service to the people of New York and this Nation.

MEDICAL DEVICE USER FEE AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 3580, the Medical Device Amendments.

This bill represents the kind of good public policy that can be developed when the parties work together in a bipartisan fashion.

H.R. 3580 makes a number of important changes to the processes at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that life-saving medical devices are sped to the market, while at the same time ensuring that patient safety is protected. By instituting a system of user fees, this legislation will direct an additional \$25 to \$30 million to the FDA so that they can streamline their device approval process.

The legislation also makes sure that Congress upholds its end of the bargain by requiring an additional \$15 million to be added to FDA's baseline through the appropriations process. As a result, FDA will have \$40-50 million more over the next five years.

Additionally, by providing the FDA some flexibility in allowing third parties to perform biennial FDA quality systems regulations inspections, the agency will be able to clear the backlog, in inspections, and ensure that the facilities where these devices are made meet the same FDA standard that has been the benchmark.

This legislation contains important provisions which help clarify whether a product designed for single-use has been reprocessed, and improves labeling so that individuals and health care providers know when a product has been reprocessed.

However, I am most pleased that this legislation contains provisions that would improve our understanding of the long term health implications of breast implants. Current data regarding the health implications of breast im-

plants fails to answer many questions, especially about the longterm health effects of breast implants, their effect on the auto-immune system, on neurological function, and on the children of women who have them. There is also a gaping void in our understanding of how implants affect breast cancer survivors.

We have also heard from many women that they were not adequately informed of the risks associated with implants before their surgeries. We have worked very closely with the committee to get some of these concerns addressed, and I am pleased that they agreed to include our proposal to have the NIH do a study on the long-term health consequences of breast implants.

This study would require NIH to delve into areas that have not been previously studied, so that we can have a full understanding of how breast implants affect women.

We were also able to agree on a GAO report, which will study the FDA's current informed consent procedures, to evaluate whether women are receiving the information they need to make an informed decision, whether that information is up-to-date, comprehensive, fair and balanced, and understandable. This GAO study will give us the hard data we need to determine whether changes to the FDA's process are necessary and appropriate.

I would like to thank Congressman ROY BLUNT for his hard work on this issue. ROY and I have been working together on this issue for several years because we both have constituents who have experienced problems with breast implants. We have both heard first hand of the deficiencies in our current knowledge base on the effects of implants, as well as concerns about the ability of women to receive comprehensive, fair and balanced information about the risks of implants.

I would like to thank Chairman TAUZIN and his staff for working so closely with us on this issue. A lot of effort went into this entire bill—including these provisions—and it would not have occurred without his leadership.

I would also like to thank Dr. GANSKE. I know that, as a plastic surgeon, he had some concerns about what we were trying to do, but I think we were able to work out a reasonable compromise on these issues, and that the women he treats will be better served as a result. I think that is something we can all be proud of.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I voice my support for this legislation and urge its passage.

TRUTH IN FINANCING ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give taxpayers the power to prevent their tax dollars from subsidizing illegal activity by introducing the Truth in Financing Act. Hard as my colleagues may find it to believe, groups which violate federal and state laws, or make misrepresentations when filing for federal grants, continue to receive federal tax dollars.

For example, according to information obtained by my office, federal bureaucrats are giving taxpayer funds to groups which routinely flaunt laws requiring that cases of statutory rape and child molestation be reported to the relevant authorities.